

--Abstract of the Disclosure

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An apparatus for cutting a window covering to a specified length includes a base having a substantially flat cutting surface and a frame overlying the cutting surface and mounted to the base, the frame and the cutting surface defining a receiving area therebetween for receiving a window covering. The apparatus includes a cutting assembly slidably mounted to the frame for sliding along a movement axis toward and away from the receiving area, and a cutting blade connected to the cutting assembly, the cutting blade including a cutting edge facing the receiving area. A driver is connected and in engagement with the cutting assembly for imparting sliding motion to the cutting assembly to move the cutting blade along the movement axis toward and away from the receiving area. The cutting edge of the cutting blade remains substantially parallel to the substantially flat cutting surface during movement of the cutting blade along the movement axis.--

REMARKS

The present application is a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/245,596 filed February 5, 1999. This Preliminary Amendment is filed contemporaneously with Applicants' Continued Prosecution Application.

The Examiner disapproved the proposed drawing correction submitted December 17, 1999. In response, by separate letter attached, Applicants have requested authorization from the Official Draftsman to amend Figures 1, 2A, 2B, 4A, 4B and 7A-7C. The proposed amendments to the drawings are indicated in red ink. In addition, Applicants have also requested authorization from the Official Draftsman to add new drawing Figure 5D showing a fragmentary view of Figure 5C. In view of the above-mentioned amendments to the drawings, Applicants assert that the drawings satisfy the requirements of M.P.E.P. § 608.02(v). Applicants will submit amended formal drawings, incorporating the above-mentioned changes, upon receiving authorization for the requested changes from the Official Draftsman.

The Examiner did not consider the Information Disclosure Statement filed December 20, 1999 because no publication dates were provided for the references listed in the Information Disclosure Statement. The Examiner also noted in paragraph 4 of the Office Action that the Information Disclosure Statement filed December 17, 1999 failed to comply with 37 C.F.R. §